

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 37, 39 and 41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings and claims 1-5, 7-20, 37 and 39 are amended, claim 41 is added, and claims 21-36, 38 and 40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

In reply to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on June 3, 2008, Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-37, 39 and 40), with traverse. Within Group I, Applicant provisionally elects Species A (identified in the Election/Restriction Requirement by Figs. 2-5), with traverse, for further prosecution on the merits. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 12-16, 37, 39 and 41 read on elected Species A. It is further submitted that claims 1, 2, 12-14 and 39 are generic to all of the alleged Species of elected Group I.

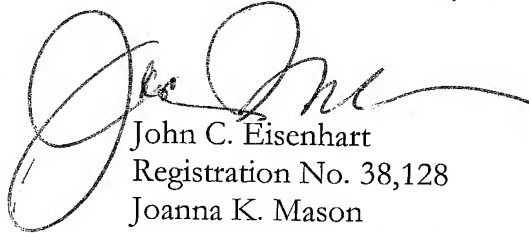
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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